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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The District Board of South Arcot has taken several measures for the prevention of the disease. I do not know what other information the hon. Gentleman requires."

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" What is the nature of this disease and what exactly is its effect on the person who suffers from it? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Guinea-worms grow within the system after infection from contaminated water and come out through various parts of the body like the foot and the eye. The hon. Member can kindly go to a hospital and see the suffering patients for himself."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" The Hon. Minister was enumerating the various preventive measures that were being adopted. May I know whether those measures are adopted in those two districts and, if so, the strength of the special staff employed for this work? " 11-30 a.m.

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There is no special staff employed for this purpose. In South Arcot a Reserve Sanitary Inspector is employed and the Range Health Inspector is also attending to this work."

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" On a point of personal explanation. I am sorry the Hon. the Health Minister is treating this issue so very lightly when he says that worms are coming out and the flesh bursts out. The very thought of it is terrible."

Starting of ink industry in Madras by foreign firms.

* 621 *Q*.—SRI N. K. PALANISWAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether any licences have been issued by the State Government to the Japanese ' Pilot ' ink firm and the American ' Quink ' ink firm to start an ink industry in Madras?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" No, Sir."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY :—" ஏற்கெனவே உள்நாட்டில் ஏராளமான இங்க் தயாரிக்கப்படுகின்றன. அதைப் பாதுகாப்பதற்கு இனிமேல் குவிங்க், ஜப்பான், பைலட் கம்பெனி முதலியவைகள் இங்கு தயாரிக்க ஏதாவது லைசென்ஸ் வேண்டுமென்று மனுப்போட்டால் அதைக் கொடுக்காமல் இருக்க சர்க்கார் உத்தரவாதம் கொடுக்க முடியுமா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The ink industry does not come within the scope of the Industries Development and Regulation Act of 1951 and, therefore, no licence is required for the establishment of an undertaking for the manufacture of ink. Therefore, there is no question of the State Government issuing any licence for any factories. But in July 1953 the Government of India approved a scheme submitted by the Pilot Pen Company for the manufacture of Pilot fountain pen and ink in collaboration with the Pilot Company, Tokyo, and permission was granted to Tailor

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& Co., Limited, in October 1952 to manufacture quink in collaboration with Parker Pen Company, Limited, London. The All-India Ink Manufacturers' Association protested against the policy of granting permission for the establishment of ink factories by foreigners on the ground that it would prejudicially affect the indigenous industry and that permission should not be granted. The representation was supported by this Government and forwarded to the Government of India. But the Government of India considered that ink suitable for Parker fountain pens was not available locally and that the entry of foreign concerns in the field would only introduce healthy competition in the industry. There the matter stands."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" The Hon. Minister in his answer just now given was saying that there was no ink equivalent to quink ink as far as the Parker pens were concerned. It is not a fact as far as the experience of various people is concerned. Are the Government aware that the firms connected with the indigenous ink industry like Techno and Prabhath in Malabar and Iris in Madras are affected by Quink and other foreign firms and, if so, what steps do the Government intend to take to give protection to the indigenous industry? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Several users of Parker pens would not agree with the hon. Member that quink is not indispensable for using Parker pens. So far as quink is concerned, I do not think, taking into account its cost, it will compete with other inks that are manuufactured in the country."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Where is the safety valve that the particular ink intended only for Parker pen is not used by persons who use other pens thereby making the indigenous industry suffer? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" From my own experience I can say that people cannot afford to use quink for other pens."

Deaths from respiratory diseases in the City.

* 622 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether the Government have instructed the Commissioner, Corporation of Madras, to investigate the causes of the high percentage of deaths in the City from respiratory diseases during 1953–54?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" In May 1954, while reviewing the Administration Report of the Corporation of Madras for 1952–53 the Commissioner of the Corporation was asked to investigate the causes for high percentage of deaths from respiratory disease."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY :—" May I know whether the investigation has been completed and what the result of it is? "